

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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2003 Regular Session  
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By: **Senator Forehand**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Finance

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Regional Conference on Creation of a Regional Transportation Authority**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Governor of the State of Maryland, the Governor of the  
4 Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia to  
5 convene a regional conference to discuss the creation of a Maryland, Virginia,  
6 and District of Columbia Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Transportation  
7 Authority; and generally relating to the creation of a Maryland, Virginia, and  
8 District of Columbia Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Transportation Authority.

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Washington Region has the third worst  
11 congestion in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Traffic congestion in the Metropolitan Washington Region costs the  
13 citizens of the Region approximately \$1,595 annually per rush hour commuter; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the next 25 years, there will be over 1 million additional trips  
15 to or from work per day in the region, for a total of 4.1 million daily commuter trips;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, By the year 2025, daily work and nonwork trips in the Metropolitan  
18 Washington Region will increase by 38%, from approximately 12.8 million trips per  
19 day in 2001 to approximately 17.6 million trips per day in 2025, yet according to  
20 recently adopted regional long range plans, highway lane miles will increase by only  
21 13% over the same period, from approximately 12,500 to approximately 14,100 lane  
22 miles, leaving a much greater gap between projected demand and available capacity  
23 than exists today; and

24 WHEREAS, By the year 2020, traffic volumes across existing bridges in the  
25 Metropolitan Washington Region will increase to more than 300,000 trips above  
26 design capacity each day, yet Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia have  
27 had difficulty coordinating long-term regional transportation and related growth  
28 policies; and

29 WHEREAS, Although there is frequent and beneficial coordination between  
30 executive branch officials and local government officials in Maryland, Virginia, and

1 the District of Columbia, a more formal structure for coordinating transportation  
2 solutions may be beneficial in improving transportation and mobility for residents of  
3 the Metropolitan Washington Region, particularly residents of northern Virginia and  
4 suburban Maryland; and

5 WHEREAS, Because the increasing amount of commuter traffic in the  
6 Metropolitan Washington Region is a regional problem, affecting the Commonwealth  
7 of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia, a regional solution is  
8 required; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
10 General Assembly of Maryland urges the Governor of the State of Maryland, the  
11 Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia  
12 to convene a regional conference to discuss the creation of a Maryland, Virginia, and  
13 District of Columbia Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Transportation Authority; and be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That the conference should include representatives from the  
16 Maryland General Assembly, the Virginia General Assembly, the Council of the  
17 District of Columbia, and the relevant transportation authorities and agencies within  
18 each jurisdiction; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the conference should include discussions of long-term  
20 regional transportation solutions, potential funding sources for regional capital  
21 projects, and the feasibility and merits of establishing a Regional Transportation  
22 Authority in the Metropolitan Washington Region; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
24 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
25 the Honorable Mark Warner, Governor of Virginia; and the Honorable Anthony A.  
26 Williams, Mayor of the District of Columbia.